

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 MC-02 NSC-10 SPC-03

SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 EB-11 IGA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 L-03 OMB-01 COME-00

DRC-01 /115 W

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R 301947Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6182

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0413

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, HO, YO

SUBJ: BID TO SELL F-86S TO HONDURAS

1. ON JAN 18 PAUL M. AUBIN, PRESIDENT OF AVIATION BUSINESS SERVICES OF HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA, CALLED AT EMBASSY TO COMPLAIN ABOUT DEPT'S DECISION DENYING REEXPORT PERMISSION FOR SALE OF SIX F-86E SABRE JET AIRCRAFT FROM YUGOSLAVIA TO HONDURAS. HE WENT INTO SOME DETAILS OF THE TRANSACTION AND STATED THAT HE HAD INNOCENTLY INCURRED CONSIDERABLE EXPENSES (SEVERAL BUSINESS TRIPS TO EUROPE, PLUS ADVANCE DEPOSIT OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE YUGOSLAV GOVT). ALTHOUGH HE KNEW OF THE NEED FOR USG APPROVAL, HE THOUGHT THAT THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN OBTAINED, JUDGING FROM GOY MESSAGE TO HIM STATING THAT IT WAS FREE TO SELL THE AIRCRAFT TO ALL LA COUNTRIES EXCEPT PANAMA.

2. HE DESCRIBED HIS APPEAL AGAINST THE ORIGINAL DECISION, AND SEPARATION FROM THE ORIGINAL DEAL OF
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PROPOSAL TO SELL ONE T-33 TRAINER, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED. AUBIN HAS SINCE BOUGHT ONE TRAINER FOR EXPORT.

BOTH F-86S AND T-33, HOWEVER, WERE PART OF SAME CONTRACT WITH GOH.

3. HE CAME TO TEGUCIGALPA AND EMBASSY AGAIN ON JAN 29, IN RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM HONDURAN AF COMMANDER SOTO CANO, INFORMING HIM THAT PERIOD OF CONTRACT HAD EXPIRED. HE TALKED BOTH TO SOTO CANO AND GEN LOPEZ. ALTHOUGH SOTO CANO STATED THAT HE WANTED THE T-33, GEN LOPEZ REPORTEDLY SAID TO AUBIN, "IF THEY CAN'T GIVE IT ALL TO US, WE'LL GET IT SOMEWHERE ELSE." AUBIN SAID THAT LOPEZ REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN SIMILAR VEIN TO SOTO CANO EARLIER, WHEN TOLD OF US TURNDOWN OF F-86S.

4. ON BOTH OCCASIONS AUBIN SAID HE WAS GOING TO OBJECT TO DEPT'S DECISION AND ASKED FOR EMBASSY HELP. AMB AND DCM GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON THIS, NOTING REASONS GIVEN IN SEYMOUR WEISS' LETTER TO AUBIN OF DEC 20. WE COMMENTED THAT USG OPPOSITION TO GOH ACQUISITION OF F-86S WAS NOT NEW, BUT CONSISTENT POLICY DATING BACK FOUR YEARS.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THIS LEAVES AUBIN'S T-33 SALE. HE IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT SOTO CANO WILL TRY TO TALK GEN LOPEZ OUT OF HIS APPARENT DECISION NOT TO BUY IT.
SANCHEZ

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